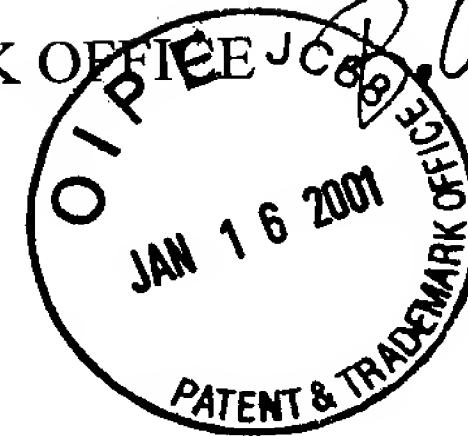


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Astatke *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/608,066

Filed: June 30, 2000

For: **Composition and Methods for  
Enhanced Sensitivity and  
Specificity of Nucleic Acid  
Synthesis**

Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: Taylor, J.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4990001/RWE/CEJ

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**Petition For Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for replying to the outstanding Office Action be extended 1 month from January 1, 2001 to February 1, 2001 by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$110.00 for a 1 month extension for a large entity. Fee payment is provided in our accompanying Check No. 30057. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

*Robert W. Esmond*

Robert W. Esmond

Attorney for Applicants

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01/17/2001 HNDOR1

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